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Instant Local
News At Your
Fingertips

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Madison County's Award-Winning Newspaper

Construction Underway On Madison's New Hospital



Photo Courtesy of Photos By Russell

Madison County Memorial Hospital Board of Directors members and other dignitaries break the ground at the site of the new hospital

Improved healthcare in Madison County took one step closer to reality on Sunday, Nov. 17, as community leaders, healthcare professionals and USDA Rural Development officials conducted a ground-breaking ceremony for a new hospital.

Funded by a \$23,543,400 USDA Rural Development loan to the Madison County Health and Hospi-

tal District, the new 25-bed Critical Access Hospital will replace the community's aging 57-year-old hospital.

The current Madison County Memorial Hospital building, which opened in 1955, was determined to be outdated and unsuitable for renovations. The new Critical Access Hospital, certified to receive

cost-based reimbursements from Medicare, will accommodate the latest medical technology and specialized equipment, and will include operating rooms, testing labs, emergency rooms and a new physical plant. These improvements will give Madison County's only hospital the ability to deliver vital

Please see Hospital, Page 3A

Man Arrested For DUI

By Jacob Bembry
Greene Publishing, Inc.

A man was arrested for careless driving and DUI with property damage following a rollover on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, a little before 8 p.m., Archiebald Campbell, 46, of Mobile, Ala., was traveling south in a 1999 Dodge Caravan on the Colin Kelly Highway when he traveled southwest onto the west grass shoulder.

Campbell steered to the left and overcorrected. He then traveled southeast across the southbound and north

Please see DUI, Page 3A

Just Hang Up On Robocalls



Live telephone solicitation calls from political groups, charities, and businesses are rapidly being replaced by "robocalls." Robocalls are recorded messages, usually solicitations, that consumers receive when they answer their phone. Due to advances in technology, businesses are now able to transmit thousands of recorded phone calls every minute at very little cost. But, as the use of this technology increases, so is the number of complaints. Here is what consumers

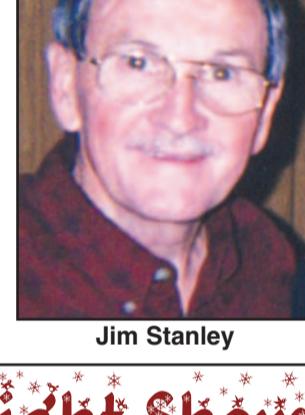
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Madison Considers Impact Fees For Hospital

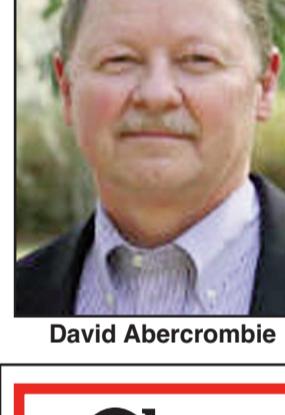
By Ginger Jarvis
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Madison's Mayor Jim Stanley expressed the sentiments of the Madison City Commissioners concerning waiving impact fees for the new hospital. With the fees approaching \$120,000, Stanley told the hospital board, "This board will do what we can to help the hospital."

Hospital Administrator David Abercrombie and the board appeared at the city commissioners' regular meeting on November 13. Abercrombie explained, "We are a not-for-profit. If you waive the fees, that money will go to purchase health-care equipment. This is one chance to improve health care in Madison



Jim Stanley



David Abercrombie

County."

Consulted on the requirements in the impact-fee ordinance, City Attorney Clay Schnitker said, "You have to follow the ordinance. You can amend it to say that it is not applicable under these circumstances if you want to."

City Manager Tim
Please see Impact
Fees, Page 3A

Valdosta Highway Light Show Begins Thanksgiving Night



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, November 14, 2012

Back again this year with their synchronized light and music display are (left to right) Jeff Messer, Bob Roebuck, Jr. and Bobby Roebuck, Sr.

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Imagine a Christmas light display so complex and intricate you have to have an Excel spreadsheet to map out how it's all plugged in and keep track

of over 500 channels.

"I have the Master Plan right here," said Jeff Messer, holding up several pages (yep, that's pages, plural) of spreadsheet printouts. "This

Please see Light Show, Page 3A

Cherry Lake Fire And Rescue Still Has Boston Butts Available

Cherry Lake Fire and Rescue still has some Boston butts available.

If anyone is interested, they are asked to please call (850) 929-2354 or (850) 929-4532 and leave a message with contact information.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE CONDUCTS CANINE DEMONSTRATION AT CENTRAL SCHOOL

Madison County Sheriff Ben Stewart reports that on Wednesday, Nov. 7, the Sheriff's Office Drug Task Force conducted an educational program to include a live Canine demonstration at the Central School for the 3k classes.

The theme for the demo was "DRUGS ARE BAD." The 3-k Students and teachers were educated in what to do if they see drugs or guns. The program discussed how and why the Sheriff's Office utilizes Canines to track lost or missing children, search for drugs and apprehend criminals.

Please see Canine, Page 3A

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7.9A
10A
8A
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Local Weather

Wed 11/21	74/47		Thu 11/22	73/43		Fri 11/23	75/48		Sat 11/24	72/44	

Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 40s.

VIEWPOINTS & OPINIONS

CRACKER SEZ Preciate'n

Russel Thigpen, 'uh contractor, came inta' the coffee shop this morn'n. I can't remember the last time he had coffee with us. Arnie Sapp asked 'em how things has been go'n. Russel said he ain't had 'uh big contract fer' 4 n' 'uh half years, said he had ta' sell his big fancy house 'n move inta' 'uh little cabin. He said he used ta' cook up big fancy meals but now he's had ta' cut back on his groceries. Ta' top that off, yesterdee', he bumped 'uh post on his barn with his tractor n' broke it off.

Junior Sapp spoke up n' said, "Russel, it sounds like you ain't had noth'n but trouble."

Russel said, "It appears that way, but, I preciate' not have'n all them contract deadlines. It gives me 'uh chance ta' slow my pace 'uh bit. I do some remodel'n ta' pay my bills. I preciate have'n 'uh smaller house. It's easier ta' keep up. I don't eat all them fancy fix'n so I preciate the fact I lost some weight. Tween' them 3 things my blood pressure is back ta' normal."

Junior said, "but what about yer barn post?"

Russel said, "I noticed some termites in the bottom of that post that was sure ta' be in the rest of the barn soon. I preciate the fact I can spray 'uh little termite poison and save the barn."



Jim Deitrich
Guest Columnist

Junior said, "Russel, you've sure got 'uh way of notice'n the good side of things. I preciate talk'n to 'uh feller that thinks thataway."

I believe' ole' Russel got all us in the coffee shop think'n in 'uh thankful way.

Sincerely Yourn'

Cracola O'Lustee

(Cracker fer short)

Red, White & True Mysteries

Abigail Had A Habit Of Writing Letters To The Future President

You've probably never heard of Abigail Smith. Or at least you think you haven't heard of her. That's OK, because most Americans don't recognize her name, either.

She was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts, in 1744 to a minister father and a housewife mother. As was common during that era, young Abigail did not receive a formal education. She was relatively well-educated, though, as she spent many hours in her father's library reading the Bible, history and philosophy books, essays and poetry as well as Shakespeare's work.

Smith was her maiden name, but it is her married name by which you know her. When Abigail was twenty, she married a Harvard graduate who went on to become a lawyer. The couple first lived on her husband's farm in Braintree, then in the town that became Quincy, Massachusetts, and later in Boston. They had three sons and two daughters.

Abigail's husband often traveled out of town on business, so the two of them would keep in touch by writing letters to each other. Lots and lots of letters. Abigail enjoyed writing letters so much that she even wrote to the future president of the United States. Nothing all that unusual about that, really, as thousands of people write to the president each year. What seems unusual, though, was that this future president would often write back to her.

In one of her letters during the late 1700's, she wrote, "Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could."

Abigail Smith might have sounded like a feminist, but she was more of an activist than a feminist. While she never received a formal education, she pushed hard to ensure that girls had the same opportunities in school that boys had. The future president that I mentioned sought out Abigail's advice on many topics; you see, she had a major influence on not one but, count 'em, two United States presidents.

Abigail was a cousin of John Han-

cock's wife, on her mother's side. I won't go into that whole "third cousin, once removed" thing because nobody seems to understand how that works anyway. I always thought that being "once removed" referred to the divorced in-law who is no longer part of the family – until I heard the term "twice removed."

She once said, "If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation."

Some of the material that she wrote would later show up in the Broadway musical "1776," which won a Tony award and was based on the events leading to the writing and signing of the Declaration of Independence. Her family was also the subject of a 1976 PBS mini-series.

Speaking of the Declaration of Independence, in an odd coincidence, her husband died on the exact same day that Thomas Jefferson died – July 4, 1826 – which was exactly 50 years after the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

People say that everything is relative, and the reason why Abigail Smith received letters from a future president was because of her relations. She married one president and raised another: John Adams, our nation's second president, was her husband and John Quincy Adams, our nation's sixth president, was her son.

Earlier I mentioned that Abigail and her husband lived in Quincy (which served as your first clue), and since I am from Quincy, Illinois, I wondered where the name of Quincy came from. It turns out that Abigail's mother's maiden name was Quincy. If you're keeping score at home, there are 11 other towns named Quincy in the United States.

#

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National Security



Joe Boyles
Guest Columnist

Father Ben

A week ago, St. Mary's Episcopal Church laid to rest our priest of 20 years, Benjamin O. Pfeil. Father Ben, as he affectionately known, lived a long and rich life — he was approaching his 89th birthday when he died on November 10th.

Ben was not a native of Madison. He was born in upstate New York and raised in Catskill on the west bank of the Hudson River. His roots were in the Episcopal Church. In his office was a photograph of Ben taken in the late 1930s outside his church in the vestments of an acolyte. He was also a Boy Scout, achieving the rank of Eagle.

Following high school, he attempted to join the Royal Canadian Air Force before America entered World War II. Being underage, he was rejected but following Pearl Harbor a few months later, he joined the US Navy. In late 1942 while attending technical training at NAS Jacksonville, he met a young girl from Madison by the name of Mary Jane Smith at a dance. They hit it off; two years later after Ben returned from overseas duty, they were married.

Now you know how a Yankee from New York adopted Madison. In fact, Ben's grandfather was a blue-coat veteran of the Civil War. Don't you know that raised a few eyebrows in the Smith family with their proud Confederate heritage? Ben told me once that he took quite a bit of ribbing from his in-laws at family gatherings over the years. I'm sure he weathered the teasing good-naturedly.

Ben's six year service in the Navy as an enlisted flight crew member took him to naval air stations around the US, but primarily to the Pacific theater. Most of his flying time was spent in the Martin B-26 Marauder

flying from Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal and Guam. With thousands of hours in the air, Ben developed a finely tuned ear for those twin Pratt & Whitney R-2800 Wasp engines that powered the Marauder. The aircraft didn't fly well on one engine, so if anything was amiss, Ben was all over it. The Pacific Ocean is a really lonely place if you have to swim.

In 1948, Ben left the Navy and settled in his young wife's hometown with their infant son Bill. At the same time, he joined St. Mary's. His Episcopal lineage was impeccable. As he put it, "I was carried into the Episcopal Church as an infant for baptism and I will be carried out of the church when it is time."

For 64 years, two-thirds of a century, he served his church in every capacity imaginable. He used his knowledge of electronics to run a hometown TV sales and repair business. He also led a Boy Scout troop for years, turning his boyhood interest into an opportunity to mentor the youth of Madison.

Twenty years ago in 1992, St. Mary's underwent a sea change. The church had turned over priests for several years. It was simply too small to sponsor a divinity student through seminary so the Bishop of the Diocese of Florida, Frank Cerveny, decided to appoint a local priest from within the congregation. That duty fell to the senior lay minister, Ben Pfeil. That was an ironic choice because as a boy at St. Luke's in faraway Catskill, Ben had felt a calling to the priesthood. Half a century later, the dream was fulfilled. God works in mysterious and wondrous ways.

In preparation for his ordination, Ben studied a variety of texts recommended to him by the bishop. That ceremony took place on the first

Sunday of Advent, 1992. For the next twenty years, Ben Pfeil toiled as the priest for St. Mary's, longer than any other in the church's 153 year history. He lost his beloved wife Mary Jane ten years ago, and his work at St. Mary's became the primary focus of his last years on earth.

In June 2011, Ben was on the phone to the Diocese in Jacksonville when the bishop (now John Howard) came on the line to talk about the next progression of leadership at St. Mary's. The bishop asked for a recommendation to replace him; Ben suggested that I be the next priest for our tiny church. He had not discussed this with me beforehand, but the Holy Spirit moved him to make that recommendation.

Members of the congregation had been suggesting to me as long as eight years ago that I should be Ben's eventual replacement, but I said no. I was in denial; it wasn't time. But the best soup is one that simmers on the stove. Some have asked me if I volunteered for this job, and my reply is "no, I was drafted – by the Lord, by Ben Pfeil, by John Howard, and by my congregation."

This is an awesome responsibility and I am truly humbled by the challenge. To follow in the footsteps of Ben Pfeil is a daunting task. He was truly "Christ's faithful soldier and servant until his life's end." Amen.

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FROM PAGE ONE

Hospital

cont from Page 1A

health-care services to the community.

"Rural Development is working in communities all over the country, to assist rural towns and counties just like Madison County, to provide critical services for their citizens," said USDA Rural Development State Director Richard A. Machek. "Quality health care is one of the most important services a community can provide. Once construction of this state-of-the-art facility is complete, residents will have immediate access to advanced, quality health care and services and Rural Development is proud to be a partner."

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a national network of state and local offices. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of more than \$174 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

DUI

cont from Page 1A

bound travel lanes and overturned.

Campbell traveled southeast across the southbound and northbound travel lanes and overturned.

The Caravan traveled southeast onto the east grass shoulder and came to a final rest on its roof, facing southwest.

Campbell was not injured in the wreck.

FHP Trooper John Sleighter was the investigating officer.

Robocalls

cont from Page 1A

should know about robocalls:

Robocalls are legal, provided that companies check to screen out phone numbers on the Do Not Call Registry. Charities and political organizations are exempt under the Do Not Call policy and are allowed to make robocalls. If you would like to cut down on the number of robocalls from political groups, one solution is to contact your local Supervisor of Elections and ask to have your phone number removed from the Voter Registration list.

Businesses cannot solicit individuals on the Do Not Call Registry either over the phone or through robocalls UNLESS the consumer has granted them permission to do so IN WRITING. Robocalls that violate these rules are generally scams and are often associated with offers such as debt or mortgage relief, and deals to lower interest rates. The best thing to do is to just hang up.

Be wary of robocalls that instruct you to press "1" to reach a live operator or to press another number to be taken off the list. This is just a ploy to determine if the phone number is active. Punching ANY number will result in future robocalls.

Robocalls are commonly associated with "spoofing," which is information that is falsified on a caller ID to make it appear that the call is from a legitimate business such as a bank or a business known to the consumer. Fake caller ID's may also show the number 123456789 or the caller may appear as "unknown."

In response to the overwhelming number of robocall complaints that have been received by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), aggressive action is being taken to identify and shut down a number of businesses that have been in violation. Since 2010, the FTC has stopped over a billion robocalls, largely due to consumer complaints. Consumers can keep the pressure on by lodging a complaint with the FTC online at www.donotcall.gov or call toll free at 1-888-382-1222.

Impact Fees

cont from Page 1A

Bennett suggested, "Perhaps we could go with a multi-year payment plan. We want to work with the hospital in every way possible." The board discussed the section of the ordinance that addresses a new customer moving into a vacated building and how that affects fees. (The Madison County School District plans to move into the old hospital building.)

After some other discussion, Stanley said, "We will address this later. Just give us time."

In other business, the board approved a motion to abandon the right-of-way behind the Baptist parsonage. Bennett said, "This is their yard. Some trees need to be removed, but they are located on property between two sections that the Baptists own."

Making the motion to abandon the property, Commissioner Judy Townsend commented, "We do not need this property."

Commissioner Ina Thompson seconded the motion; it was approved unanimously.

Commissioner moved to approve an agreement with William E. Greene to receive a utility easement and deed on a 6.4 tract behind Winn-Dixie. The move was approved unanimously.

The board approved on its second reading an ordinance that allows city employees to mow plots, straighten monuments, and otherwise maintain family plots in Oak Ridge Cemetery when no family members live in the area.

Canine

cont from Page 1A

The program included live training of K-9

Max as he located hidden drugs and demonstrated

his ability apprehend a criminal. There were a total of 4 classes that participated in the program.



Photos Submitted

Light Show

cont from Page 1A

year's show is going to be twice as good as last year's."

Those who saw the synchronized Christmas music light display out on Colin Kelly Highway last year, might wonder how he plans to top that.

Well, add a second "mega-tree," a 24-foot-high display with bright white LED lights in a spiral pattern. Add independently controlled red, white and green rope lights around the shutters and windows. Add panels with animated Christmas tree faces that "sing" along with the music. Add LED icicles that look like they're actually "dripping."

The original star-topped mega-tree will still be there, along with the nativity scene and the dancing arches looping across the yard. "I remember the year when those were the big hit," said Messer, indicating the arches.

Jeff Messer and Bobby Roebuck got started on the light display about five years ago, after the two of them saw a synchronized light and music display in a Valdosta subdivision.

"I'll bet you can't do anything like that," Roebuck said to Messer.

Messer started doing research on the internet to figure out how to do just that, and started putting together the first light show, starting out with the first mega-tree and two or three little trees. Everything grew from there.

Then he moved out to the location on Colin Kelly Highway, with a much bigger yard to work with, and now the show has gotten not just bigger and better, but more complex and more intricate. Buried power cables run through the front yard, coming up through numerous canisters where power cords can be

plugged in. PVC pipe frames make it much easier to put the lights around the shutters and windows.

Still, the entire setup takes about three weeks of work to put together, with a lot of help from tree surgeon Billy Sexton and his bucket truck. "We'd like to extend thanks to him for all his help. We couldn't do it without him."

This year, adding the second mega-tree, the "Webber spiral," was a last minute decision. Whether the spiral tree or the singing Christmas tree faces will be the biggest hit remains to be seen.

As for programming the countless strings of lights to be in sync with the music, Messer estimates that every minute of actual music requires about 50 hours of programming.

"Before this show comes down in January, he's already planning the next one," said Roebuck.

"Have to," Messer replied. "Just to stay ahead."

To keep all that high-tech display safe, there are also numerous 360 PTZ (pan-tilt-zoom) cameras with infrared capability watching over everything.

To keep all the

those who stop by to watch safe, Messer asks that everyone keep "safety first" in mind when they pull over to park, for what promises a real treat for young and old, grandparents, parents and grandkids.

This year's light show begins Thanksgiving night at 5:30 p.m. To see the show, take the Valdosta Highway (AKA the Colin Kelly Highway, and Highway 145) and head north of town about five miles, just past the United Methodist Ministries Center. When you see the light display, pull over to the side and tune your car radio to 104.3 FM.

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16

AROUND MADISON COUNTY

THE SAVVY SENIOR



Dear Savvy Senior,
Can lifting weights help with age-related health problems? At age 70, I have diabetes, arthritis and osteoporosis and recently read that strength training could improve my conditions. What can you tell me?

Looking for Help

Dear Looking

A growing body of research shows that strength training exercises can have a profound impact on a person's health as they age – and you're never too old to start.

Regular strength training, done at least two nonconsecutive days a week, helps you build muscle strength, increases your bone density and improves your balance, coordination and stamina. It can also help reduce the signs and symptoms of many chronic conditions like arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, back pain, depression and obesity. And some studies even show that it helps improve cognitive function too.

Safety First

For the most part, strength training exercises – especially if you start conservatively and progress slowly – are safe for most seniors, even those with serious health conditions. But, if

you have health concerns or if you are currently inactive, you should talk to your doctor about what may be appropriate for you. A good self-help resource to help you find an appropriate, safe exercise program is the "Exercise and Screening for You" tool at easiforyou.info.

Getting Started

If you've never done strength training exercises before, you may want to work with a personal trainer for a few sessions to help you develop a safe and effective routine you can continue on your own. They cost anywhere from \$20 to \$100 per hour. To find one, ask your health care provider or contact a good health club or fitness facility in your area. You can also search for one online at reputable sites like acefitness.org or ideafit.com.

If personal training isn't an option, there are lots of great senior strength training videos you can purchase to guide you through a wide variety of exercises that you can do at home. Collage Video (collagevideo.com, 800-819-7111) sells dozens of age and fitness appropriate DVD's at prices usually ranging between \$10 and \$20.

Also see go4life.nia.nih.gov, a resource created by the National Institute on Aging.

ated by the National Institute on Aging that offers a free exercise DVD and guide that provides illustrated examples of exercises you can do at home to strengthen your body. You can order your free copies online or by calling 800-222-2225.

Senior Classes

If you don't like exercising alone or need some motivation consider joining a gym, or call your local senior center to see if they offer any strength training exercise classes. You should also check out Silver-Sneakers (silversneakers.com, 888-423-4632) or Silver&Fit (silverandfit.com, 877-427-4788). These are fitness programs offered in thousands of fitness centers, gyms and YMCAs throughout the U.S. that offer special classes designed for older adults. These programs are available only to seniors that have certain Medicare supplemental policies or Medicare Advantage plans.

Equipment

If you work out at home you'll probably need to invest in some equipment. While some strength training can be done using your own body weight (like push-ups, sit-ups and leg squats), hand weights, ankle weights, medicine balls, resistance bands or rubber tubing are all great tools for strength training. You can find all these products at sport-

ing goods stores, or online at amazon.com for around \$10 or less. Cans of soup, water bottles or plastic milk containers filled with water or sand could also be used (like small hand weights) for resistance.

Another great strength training tool you should know about is the Resistance Chair (it costs \$280). This is an all-in-one home fitness system that helps se-

nior's maintain and improve their strength from a safe seated position with minimal risk of injury. To learn more see vqactioncare.com or call 800-585-4920.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



Thank you for your support in the recent Election. I look forward to continuing to serve as your Supervisor of Elections!

Tommy Hardee

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Sheriff's Office Offering Concealed Weapons Class

Submitted by Capt. Mark Joost

The Madison County Sheriff's Office will be facilitating its next Concealed Carry Weapons class on Saturday, Dec. 1. The National Rifle Association (N.R.A.) First Steps Pistol course is the foundation for the sheriff's office 8 hour concealed carry class. In addition, information is provided to ensure that each student is aware of what they can expect to take place before, during and after violent confrontations and how they, as individuals, can best prepare for these dynamics. We emphasize to our students how important it is to value life and to employ less lethal options when the circumstances permit, but we want our students to be confidently prepared. The Florida standards for legally carrying a concealed firearm may not be sufficient to prepare for violent confrontations. Our goal is to fully prepare law-abiding citizens for the complex dynamics of violent confrontations while helping to preserve each of our Second Amendment rights. This class far exceeds the requirements to apply for the State of Florida Concealed Carry Weapons Permit for residents and non-residents. The Florida Concealed

Carry Weapons permit is honored in 36 states. Our classes are taught by N.R.A. multi-discipline law enforcement firearms instructors who are active S.W.A.T. team members and U.S. military veterans. The cost for this course is \$85.00. The cost for two people in a group is \$75.00 each. The cost goes down for each additional person.

As a law abiding citizen, making the choice to arm ourselves is a right and a privilege. We owe it to ourselves and our loved ones to make the necessary preparations. Make the choice to be a victor, not a victim. We want to share with you the knowledge on how to prepare for, and win, a violent confrontation. The cost for this class is \$45.00 per person and students are required to provide the ammunition they would like to use during the practical exercises. A portion of these course fees will support summer camps sponsored by the Sheriff's Office for disadvantaged youth and other free courses for the community. If you would like to register for either of these classes, or if you have any questions, please contact Captain Mark W. Joost at 850 519-0947.



To the People of Florida's Second Congressional District,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support and prayers, and for the confidence that you have placed in me to continue our work in Congress. It is a privilege and honor to represent you.

We have accomplished a lot together over the past two years, but there is still much work to be done in our journey to change the culture in Washington, D.C.

Thank you again for trusting me to be a voice for you in Congress. Rest assured, as a lifelong resident of North and Northwest Florida, I will always fight for the people and land that I love. Your partner in freedom and liberty,

Steve Southerland, II
United States Representative
2nd District, Florida

Paid for by Southerland For Congress

Do You Remember Where You Were When JFK Was Assassinated?

Tim McCray: That's one of those things that you never forget, like when the Challenger exploded or Elvis died. I was sitting in my 10th grade Science class when a girl, who had been given permission to go to the bathroom, came in crying and said, "They shot President Kennedy. They shot President Kennedy."

No Photo Available

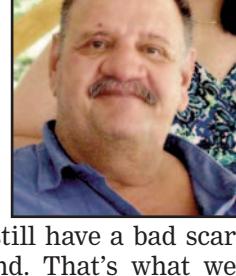
Colin Howerton: I was in P.E. class in the 10th grade at Madison County High School. We were shocked that the President had been killed.



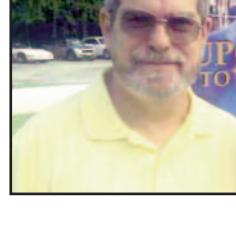
Lois Ironmonger: You know what I was doing that day. (The former Lois Sealey, Ironmonger is the younger (by two months and three weeks) first cousin of Jacob Bembry. She was born at Madison County Memorial Hospital on the day that John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas.



Mike Woods: I remember it well. I was burning trash with my brother and friends. I had my hand stuck down in a trash 55-gallon trash barrel when my brother threw the match in. I still have a bad scar on my right hand. That's what we were doing.



William Burks, Jr.: I was at Lee Junior High School.



Vicki Howerton: Oh I remember exactly. I was in ninth grade Civics class at Fitzgerald High School in Fitzgerald, Ga. when it was announced on the intercom. We were shocked and horrified.



Bakersfield Californian
-- Headline: "President Shot Down by Gunman in Dallas; Wound in Head Feared Fatal"

South Bend Tribune--
Headline: "John Kennedy Shot; President Gunned Down in Dallas Motorcade," Home Edition

Boston Traveler--
EXTRA, Headline:
"Kennedy Shot -- Condition Critical"

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AROUND MADISON COUNTY



Greenville Holds Second Annual Veterans Day Parade And Program



By Jacob Bembry
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The Town of Greenville saluted its veterans with a parade and Veterans Day program on Saturday, Nov. 10.

Following the parade through downtown Greenville, the program began at 1:30 p.m.

Following a procession to patriotic music, led by John R. Nelson, Sr., past District 2 Commander of the Department of Florida Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Jefferson County Middle High School JROTC presented the service flags. Branches recognized included the U.S. Marines, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

Kovacherich Arnold, the mayor of Greenville, welcomed everyone to the ceremony before Lucile Day welcomed the keynote speaker, Sgt. Major Bernard Washington, of the U.S. Army.

Recognition was then given to New Canaan Missionary Baptist Church for their Community Theme.

Special recognition was given to Cpl. Ernest Sneed, Camp Montford Point Marine.

Local heroes Cornell Bellamy, Rufus Crymes, Charlie English, Wilbur Miller (Buffalo Soldier), Charlie Moore and Henry Moore were honored.

Sharon Cone and her daughter, Cheyenne, played "Taps."

Closing remarks were made and the ceremony closed with "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America" before the colors were retired and benediction was given.

The Greenville Planning Committee for the celebration included:

Steering Committee: Ulysses and Geraldine Robinson, chairpersons

Members: John R. Nelson, Sr.; Rev. Charles Evans; VeEtta Hagan; Keith Kirkland; Sam Madison; Cheryl Clemons; Margie Evans; Ronnie Moore; Mary Alice Hargrett; Lucile Day; Gwen Johnson; Dr. Roy Scott; Onazina Washington; Mary M. Madison; and Sharon Cone.

Donations and support came from New Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, Regal Women's Club, Tommy Hardee and Ronnie Moore.

Is There A Quitter In You?

Madison County Health Department and Tobacco Free Florida Commemorate the Great American Smokeout

Madison County Health Department and the statewide Tobacco Free Florida program have a message for tobacco users this Great American Smokeout: There is a Quitter In You.

The Great American Smokeout on Thursday, Nov. 15 is an ideal day for smokers to find their inner quitter. This observance, currently in its 37th year, is sponsored by the American Cancer Society and raises awareness about the dangers of smoking and the many effective resources available to successfully quit.

Madison County Health Department is encouraging smokers to make a quit plan during the Great American Smokeout or to plan in advance to quit smoking that day. A comprehensive quit plan is key to quitting for good.

Local events for the Great American Smokeout include:

The Students Working Against Tobacco will be hosting a SWAT Stomps Tobacco event at the MCCS Basketball Game starting at 5:00.

The Tobacco Free Madison Partnership will be hosting a county wide outreach event with local businesses and organizations. Area businesses will be providing information on local cessation resources for employees and customers.

Tobacco Free Florida's free evidence-based resources can help tobacco users set a personalized plan that includes counseling from a certified and trained Quit Coach and FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), when appropriate. This combined approach can double to triple a tobacco user's chance of quitting.i

Seven out of 10 adult smokers report that they want to quit completely.ii Those who have not been successful in the past should continue trying because most former smokers make several attempts before quitting permanently.iii

Tobacco Free Florida offers three ways to quit:

CALL: Call the Florida Quitline at 1-877-U-CAN-

NOW to speak with a Quit Coach who will help you assess your addiction and help you create a personalized quit plan.

CLICK: Enroll in the Web Coach®, which will help you create your own web-based quit plan that's right for you, visit <https://www.quitnow.net/florida>.

COME IN: Sign up for Quit Smoking Now group classes at your local Area Health Education Center (AHEC) by calling (850) 973-1710 or attending the Tools to Quit Program at the Madison County Health Department on Mondays from 5:30 -7:30.

For more information, visit www.tobaccofreeflorida.com.

ABOUT TOBACCO FREE FLORIDA

The Florida Department of Health's Tobacco Free Florida campaign is a statewide cessation and prevention campaign funded by Florida's tobacco settlement fund.

Tobacco users interested in quitting are encouraged to use one of the state's three ways to quit. To learn about Tobacco Free Florida and the state's free quit resources, visit www.tobaccofreeflorida.com or follow the campaign on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida or Twitter at www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla.

1 Fiore MC, Jaen CR, Baker TB, et al. Treating tobacco use and dependence: 2008 update. Clinical practice guideline. Rockville, MD: US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service; 2008. Available at http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/treating_tobacco_use08.pdf

2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cigarette Smoking Among Adults—United States, 2000. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 2002;51(29):642–5 [accessed 2010 Jun 2].

3 DiClemente CC. Addiction and change: how addictions develop and addicted people recover. New York: Guilford Press, 2003.

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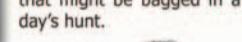
by Tommy Greene

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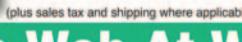




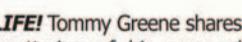


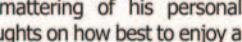


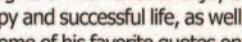


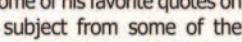


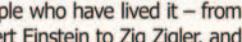


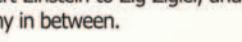


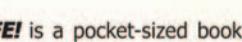


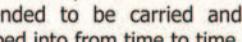


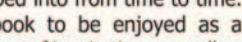


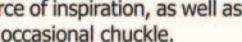


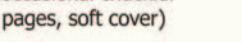




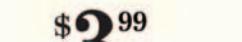




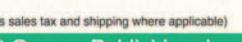


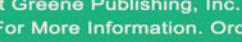














SPORTS



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bembry, November 10, 2012

Students and instructors took part in the USTA 10 and under tennis clinic.

Children Enjoy Tennis Clinic

Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bembry, November 10, 2012

Tom Moore, a tennis instructor from White Springs, gets set to volley with students.

By Jacob Bembry
Greene Publishing, Inc.

A tennis clinic, for

youngsters 10 years old

and younger, was held Saturday, Nov. 10, in the City Hall parking lot in Madison.

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) sponsored the clinic, which was taught

by Charlie Jackson, Madison City Commissioner Ina Thompson, School Superintendent

elect Doug Brown and Tom Moore, who came from White Springs with two of his students, Ayanne Newsome and Azaria Tompkins, to help. White Springs enacted the 10 and under tennis program several years ago.

the children.

Thompson, who is working hard on getting USTA courts and nets for the City of Madison, also wants to get regulation-sized tennis courts for the city.

For more information on the USTA 10 and under tennis program, please call Madison City Manager Tim Bennett at (850) 973-5081.

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Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bembry, November 10, 2012

Children learn to balance the tennis balls on their rackets, as new School Superintendent Doug Brown helps.



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1ST **Shane Mercer**

2ND **Jake Latner**

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Official Pigskin Picks Rules

- One entry per person. All entries must be on an official entry blank. No photocopies accepted.
- Entries must be completely filled out, legible and dropped off at: Greene publishing, Inc., 1695 S. SR 53, Madison, no later than 5 pm on Friday or mailed to P.O. Drawer 772, Madison, FL 32341. Postmarked by Friday.
- Judge's decisions are final
- Winners will be announced each Wednesday in the *Madison County Carrier*
- Employees of the newspaper and their family members are not eligible for the Pigskin Picks contest.

Must be ten (10) years old or older to play.

In the **FSU vs. Florida** game, write down what you think the final score will be. This will be used to break a tie, if needed.

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6. Notre Dame vs. USC

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2ND **Jake Latner**

PIGSKIN PICKS

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3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Tie Breaker: _____

SPORTS

Madison Academy Announces Boys' Basketball Schedule For 2012-2013



Madison Academy Boys' Basketball Team 2012 - 2013

The Madison Academy Panthers tipped off their 2012-2013 boys' basketball season against New Testament Christian School on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. at the Colin P. Kelly Fitness Center at North Florida Community College.

"I'm excited about our season," said Head Coach T.J. Green. "We have a lot of young players this year working hard with the older players on the team. They're enthusiastic and ready to play!"

The Panthers will play a total of 14 games with all but three games played at NFCC. For more information on Madison Academy, visit www.madisonacademy.org.

Go out and support the Panthers!



MA Boys' Basketball Schedule 2012-2013

All games will be played at NFCC unless indicated below.

November 15	New Testament	4:30 p.m.
November 20	Aucilla Christian	5:00 p.m.
November 26	Highland Christian	5:30 p.m.
November 29	Providence Christian	4:30 p.m.
December 3	New Testament	4:30 p.m.
December 11	Steinhatchee	4:00 p.m.
December 13	Community Christian	5:00 & 6:00 p.m.
January 11	at Aucilla	3:00 p.m.
January 15	at Steinhatchee	4:30 p.m.
January 17	Providence Christian	4:30 p.m.
January 22	Community Christian	5:00 & 6:00 p.m.
January 24	at Highland Christian	5:00 p.m.

Cowboys Manhandle Providence

By Jacob Bembry
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The Madison County High School Cowboys will move on to host the Pensacola Catholic Crusaders in playoff action this Friday evening, Nov. 23. They got their by manhandling Providence High 54-7 in action played Friday, Nov. 16, at Boot Hill Stadium in Madison.

D.J. McKnight threw seven passes and completed four for 119 yards and two touchdowns.

Akevious Williams threw one pass and completed it for a 10-yard touchdown. He also rushed three times for 18 yards.

Brandon Crawford caught one pass for 67 yards and a touchdown.

Keyon Bruton caught one pass for 30 yards and a touchdown. He also had four carries for 86 yards and a touchdown.



Alex Brown caught one pass for 10 yards and a touchdown. He also rushed four times for 66 yards and a touchdown.

Shedrick Williams caught one pass for one yard. He also rushed once for 14 yards.

Eric Bright rushed five times for 37 yards.

Troymond Alexander rushed five times for 18 yards.

Deontay Oliver rushed three times for 18 yards.

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Pinetta Elementary Pays A Musical Tribute To Area Veterans



Photo submitted

The Pre-K class performs "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

It was a program nearly nine weeks in the making, with weekly rehearsals every Friday since school began, led by five volunteers from the Madison Garden Club: Dolly Ballard, Betty Mandzak, Luanna Forness, Esther Decker and pianist Sally Johnson.

On the morning of Nov. 8, the pre-K through fifth grade classes of Pinetta Elementary School presented a concert of patriotic songs for friends and family, but most importantly, for the veterans of the community, who were specially invited.

The students presented a special salute in song to Madison County Veterans, thanking them for their sacrifices that allow Americans to continue to enjoy freedom.

After a welcome from Principal Beth Moore, along with fifth graders Deja Jones and Alexandria

Barker, Ellie Cherry led the pledge of allegiance and the Pre-K class led off the concert with "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." The Kindergarten class followed up with "Yankee Doodle."

Miss Gail's first grade class performed "America the Beautiful," Mrs. Christy's first grade class sang "You're a Grand Old Flag" and Mr. Lewis' second grade class sang "This Land is Your Land."

The third, fourth and fifth grade classes then performed a combined musical tribute that included "God Bless America," a song made famous by Kate Smith and written by a Russian immigrant who came to America and went on to become synonymous with patriotic songs. Other selections included "The Star-Spangled Banner," "You're a Grand Old Flag" and the "Armed Forces Medley" where the audience was invited to sing along and veterans were asked to stand whenever the children sang the song for that particular branch of the U.S. Military – Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, Army and Marines.

The children also dedicated one of their songs, "Let There be Peace on Earth," to their principal Beth Moore, just before their final song with everyone joining in: "God Bless the U.S.A."



Photo submitted

The second graders send a big "thank you" to the veterans in the audience.



Photo submitted

The kindergarten class sings "Yankee Doodle."



Photo submitted

The third, fourth and fifth grade classes combined to perform several patriotic numbers.

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Roselyn Neal



Bradley Neal

By Jacob Bembry
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Bradley Neal and his sister, Roselyn Neal, received merits of achievement from Greenville Elementary School.

Roselyn was honored with a certificate from her principal, Valencia Barnes, for being named to the A Honor Roll.

Bradley was named Student of the Month for the fifth grade for the month of November.

Beulah and Herbert Neal are the proud parents of Bradley and Roselyn.

Others who were named student of the month were:

Pre-K: Kanden Hill
Kindergarten: Travis Rawlins, Hisham Ayyad
1st Grade: Annierya Randall, Maria Corrie
2nd Grade: Jakiera Jackson, Jasmin Odom
3rd Grade: Corriion Gallon, Jonathan Mitchell
4th Grade: Mikala Kinsey

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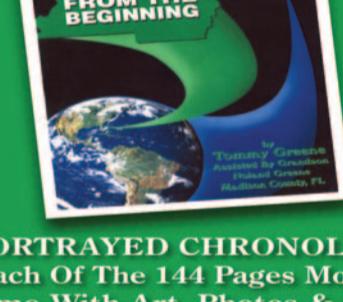
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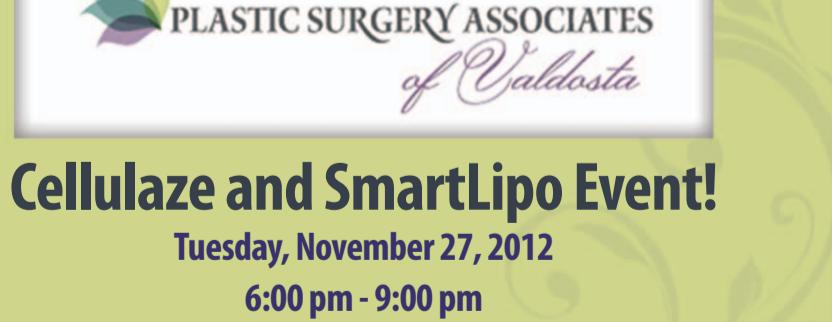
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AROUND MADISON COUNTY

Tropicana Speech Contest Winners Announced

By Lynette Norris

Greene Publishing, Inc.

This year, the Tropicana Speech Contest was held in the fall rather than the spring, to give the first place winners time to go on to compete at the next level.

The contestants, fourth, fifth and sixth graders who had already competed and won at the classroom level and at the grade level for their individual schools, gathered at the county extension office and took to the podium to compete with each other at the county level. The first place winner from each grade level is eligible to go on to compete at the district level.

With a "la-la-la" and a "do-re-mi," fourth grader Tabitha Jinks of Greenville Elementary school took first place talking about her love of singing, and her dreams of being a famous pop star, like Beyonce. Dawson Herring of Pinetta Elementary won second place, and Sarah Mabardy of Lee Elementary placed third. Kennedy Fogle of Madison County Central School and Blaydon Plain of Madison Academy won Honorable Mention.

At the fifth grade level, Ellie Cherry of Pinetta Elementary took top honors with her detailed description of a trip to the nation's capital. Kayla Reeves of Madison Academy placed second and Karissa Kervin of Lee Elementary placed third. Honorable Mentions went to Atticus Molnar of Madison County Central School, Lasage Ferguson of Greenville Elementary, and Erin Taylor of New Testament Christian School.

At the sixth grade level, first place honors went to Journey Aust of Madison County Central School, who vividly imagined herself winning a high-level spelling bee while people chanted her name. Caroline Jennings of Madison Academy placed second, Zillie Daniels of LATMA Academy placed third and Savannah Edwards of New Testament Christian School received honor-

able mention.

Congratulations to everyone who participated, and good luck to the first place winners at the district competition.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, November 16, 2012

The three first place winners of the Tropicana Speech Contest are (left to right): Tabitha Jinks, Fourth Grade; Journey Aust, Sixth Grade; and Ellie Cherry, Fifth Grade.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, November 16, 2012

Fourth grade contestants are (left to right): Kennedy Fogle, Honorable Mention; Tabitha Jinks, First Place; Dawson Herring, Second Place; Sarah Mabardy, Third Place; and Blaydon Plain, Honorable Mention.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, November 16, 2012

Representing the fifth grade are (left to right): Atticus Molnar, Honorable Mention; Erin Taylor, Honorable Mention; Ellie Cherry, First Place; Kayla Reeves, Second Place; Karissa Kervin, Third Place; Lasage Ferguson, Honorable Mention.



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Sixth grade was represented by (left to right): Savannah Edwards, Honorable Mention; Journey Aust, First Place; Caroline Jennings, Second Place; and Zillie Daniels, Third Place.



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Path of Faith



Renovations at Lime Sink Missionary Baptist Church

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Just off Little Cat Road, and a stone's throw down the gravel-surfaced Lime Sink Church Road, stands a small white structure that Rev. Joseph Simmons reckons is close to the hundred-year-old mark. It stands very near to where the old Lime Sink School used to be, and although the school is long since gone, the small building is the church home to about 20 regular members who meet there on the first and third Sundays of the month. On the second and fourth Sundays, Rev. Simmons preaches at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Live Oak.

On those occasional fifth Sundays, all the churches (about 25 altogether) that are affiliated with the First Bethlehem Ministers and Laymen Training Union in Madison and neighboring counties get together at different church locations for a worship service followed by a luncheon. Since the Union is one of the largest in the area, Lime Sink hosts the others churches about once every three and a half years, by Simmons' estimation.

The last time Lime Sink hosted the gathering was back in July of this year; and because the actual church itself is far too small to accommodate all the people who attend, the meeting place was Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church; however, the congregation of Lime Sink was responsible for the food and making sure everything good to go.

For the last 15 years, Simmons has led the small congregation at Lime Sink, and says that like any small

...Story cont. on Page 2B...



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lynette Norris, November 12, 2012

The epitome of small rural churches everywhere, the Lime Sink Missionary Baptist Church on Lime Sink Church Road continues to provide sanctuary for its flock.



Thursday, November 22, 2012 • 12 to 6pm

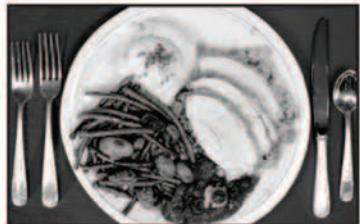
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Lime Sink Missionary Baptist Church

Story cont. from Page 1B

black country church, it is sometimes a struggle to make ends meet. Nevertheless, the congregation has managed to raise funds for a few needed renovations for the little church building.

Most recently, the dining hall area had to be rewired so it could be used to its full potential. Before, with the outdated wiring, it was impossible to even run a deep fryer in the kitchen area. There is also a new metal roof over the dining room. Soon, the sanctuary itself will need a new roof; Simmons has noticed the old shingles deteriorating on one side.

It is only rarely that they do open fundraisers in public venues, like the chicken and rice dinners they sold in their food vendor booth at the Election Night Party on the Courthouse Lawn. In fact, the Election Night fund-raiser was their first.

"Our chicken and rice always sells," says Simmons, who added that there was a possibility that the church might do another public fundraiser some time, out there in the future. If so, said Simmons, it

would most likely be as part or an organized public activity like the Election Night Party or some other public festival or celebration, and he would need to talk to some more people about it.

"We try to do most of our fund-raising in-house," said Simmons, relying mostly on donations from members. Recently, a very generous donation from a church member allowed them to buy a commercial freezer and a steam table, which was a huge help for a congregation that sees part of its mission as caring for the sick and elderly around them.

The church members have done Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for the elderly, the poor and the

homeless, and this year at their Annual Luncheon after church on the third Sunday in December, they will be boxing up meals to take to the sick and elderly in their community.

The church may be small with only a few members, and they may have to share a minister with a church in another county, but they have persevered, found a way to keep their building going and provide a sanctuary for their members who gather there to worship, and extend a helping hand to those in their community who need it most, whether physically or spiritually.

"For wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them."
Matthew 18:20

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The Pulpit

**Rev. Robert L. Holmes
Architillery Missionary
Baptist Church**

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1. We need to be willing to sacrifice our agenda for God's agenda.

Just think about the following "What Ifs." What if Noah had told God, "I don't want to build boats!" What if Joseph had not forgiven his brothers and failed to protect them from the life threatening

enen famine? Or most importantly, what if Jesus had refused to die on the cross? Can you begin to imagine what this world would be like today? Or better yet, would we still have a world?

Let us close the What Ifs by stating that God knew what he was doing when he picked the aforementioned brethren for each particular job. The point is that all of them presented themselves as a Living Sacrifice for God. This should be a goal for all of us in life, because if we live otherwise, we are asking for trouble.

The question then becomes, how do we live a sacrificial life? First, let love be without dissimulation. Hate that which is evil; and cleave to that which is good. Bless them which persecute you: bless and curse not. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:9, 14 and 21.

I know how it feels when you try to live for the Lord and it looks like all you get is negative and evil responses. Sometimes, you feel like all your work is in vain and you wonder why you should surrender to God. Read James 4:7, which says, "*Submit yourselves therefore to God.*" We need to say, Lord take our lives and make them wholly thine; Fill our poor hearts with thy great love divine. Then realize that surrender becomes vic-

tory, when we yield to God.

When we surrender to God's will, we become true disciples for Christ. Some may say, Brother Pastor, how do we become true disciples for Christ? Luke 14:26 says, "*If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*" The key to understanding this scripture is grasping the idea of a technique used in the Ancient World called hyperbole, which is defined as a "deliberate exaggeration or figure of speech for the purpose of emphasis." Therefore, hyperbole should not be taken literally and many times a person may misinterpret what the true meaning is all about. Jesus is not saying literally hating mother, father, etc, but, stressing to his disciples that they can't have divided loyalties, instead. God must be number one.

Finally, true discipleship or total surrender to God's will means that you will choose Christ, even in extreme circumstances. If someone is forced to choose between obeying Jesus or obeying his father, or sister, or brother, then that person must choose Jesus. This is what being a Living Sacrifice for the Lord is all about!

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NEWSPAPER COLUMN

by RONNIE McBRAYER



One of my favorite Brennan Manning quotes is about Heaven, but only indirectly. It's more about how to best live our lives today. Manning says, "Heaven will be filled with preschoolers. No adults will be allowed admittance." Brennan's quote duplicates the words of Jesus: "The Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like children," Christ said.

Jesus wasn't idealizing childhood or emphasizing a child's innocence with those words. No, he was pointing to the status of a child. If you want to get somewhere spiritually, Jesus says, you don't get there by clawing your way to top. You have to descend to the lowest possible place in the social strata. You humble yourself, because you

have to get small to fit through the door that leads to the kingdom of God.

So every time we feel ourselves being led away from childlike simplicity and dependence upon God, we must return to the nursery, remembering that there can be no status-striving in the ways of God. We resist and remove those things that lure us into a state where we are not wholly and completely dependent upon God.

No, the world doesn't operate this way, but this is exactly why the witness of the church is required. In a society marked by smear campaigns, scraping and fighting to get to the top of the heap, grotesque levels of inequality and greed, broken promises and broken deals, cheating and killing just to get to be number one, when we become as humble children, we show society a better way to live.

Thankfully, from time to time, God gifts the church with those rare individuals who remind us of Jesus' words. One of those people was a French teenager who lived a century ago named Therese Martin, better known today as St. Therese of Lisieux. Therese entered a Carmelite convent when she was only 15, with one ambition: To become a saint.

The Carmelites certainly lent themselves to her pursuit. The Carmelites demanded strict obedience, continuous prayers, long periods of fasting and silence, vows of isolation and poverty, and overall a severe approach to spirituality. This was the perfect place for one looking to achieve the peak of the religious honor system. And this was the exact place that Therese utterly failed.

Six years into her cloistered life in the convent, and suffering from poor health and debilitating bouts of depression, she realized that all her striving and religious go-getting was useless. She was exhausted by it all, and simply could not do it. Giving up on sainthood altogether, and despairing of life, it was about this time that she read a single line from the book of Proverbs that changed everything: "Whoso is little, let him come to me."

She named this discovery "The Little Way," realizing that the only way up, was down. For the rest of her very short life (she died at the age of 24), she quit trying so hard at trying so hard, and learned to become a child once again.

She wrote, "Children are always giving trouble, falling down, getting themselves dirty, breaking things; but ...*Story cont. on Page 5B...*

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Keeping The Faith

Story cont. from Page 4B

all this does not shake their parents' love for them...I rejoice to be little because only children, and those who are like them, will be admitted to the heavenly banquet."

Often critiqued as overly simplistic and naïve, Therese and her "Little Way" are rejected by those who feel the need for greater complexity or intellectualism in their faith. Maybe these critics reject her conclusions because they simply feel the need for more: More responsibility, more steps up the religious ladder to the top, more ways to gain respect, status, or a higher standing, and the need for a more honorable reputation.

Yet, Therese was right on target, and not because her way ironically led to her sainthood. She was right because her way reflected the way of Jesus. And reflecting Jesus is more than enough, because his way, "The Little Way," always leads us to abandon ourselves like a child, into the arms of God.

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, speaker, and author of multiple books. You can read more and receive regular e-columns in your inbox at www.ronniemcbrayer.me.



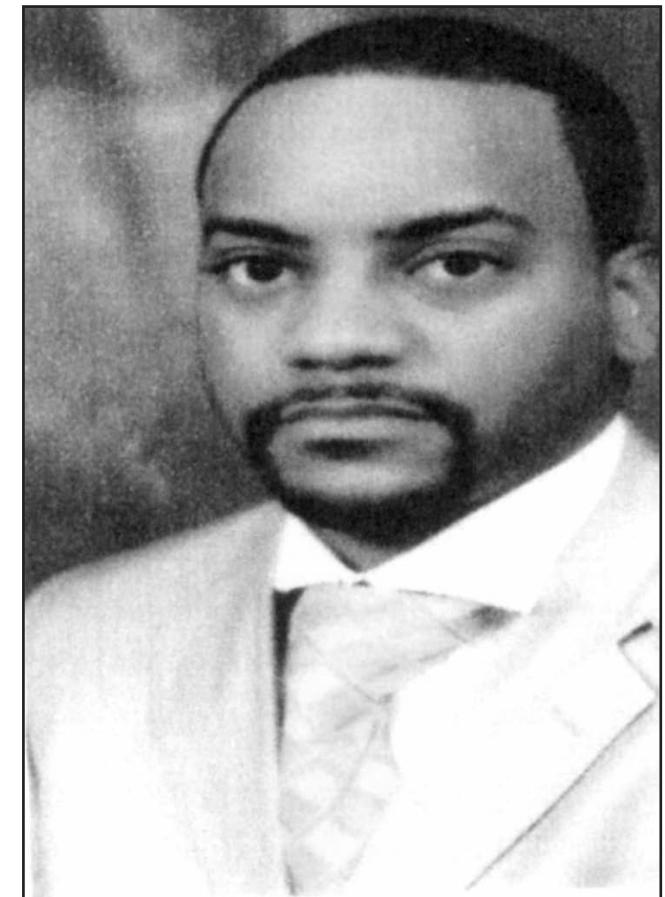
New Pastor To Be Installed At Damascus Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Martae I. Telfair-Smith, Sr. will be installed as the pastor of Damascus Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, Dec. 2, at 3 p.m.

The special guest speaker for the occasion will be Rev. Thomas D.A. Blue, pastor of New Bibleway Baptist Church of Gainesville.

The FAMU Legacy Concert Choir will be the guest choir.

Everyone is invited to attend the service.



David Paulk Talks About Comparative Religion At Rotary Club

By Lynette Norris
Greene Publishing, Inc.

"Asking a Baptist preacher to keep it down to 10 or 15 minutes is an awesome task," said David Paulk. "The reason I can teach at NFCC is they let me have at least an hour and 15 minutes."

Paulk, a graduate of Valdosta State University, with post secondary studies at Southeast Baptist Theological Seminary, was visiting the Rotary Club on Nov. 7 to talk about the Comparative Religion studies he teaches at North Florida Community College and discuss what Christians should know when dealing with people of other faiths.

One of the main things they should be aware of is that there is a great deal of diversity among the faithful, even within the same religion.

To demonstrate the diversity of beliefs even among Christians, he asked those present to imagine that a stranger had walked into the room, asked how many people in the room were Christians, and that everyone present raised a hand.

"If he said, 'okay, then, I know exactly what you believe,' chances are he be wrong in every single case."



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Lynette Norris, November 7, 2012

David Paulk, a Social Sciences instructor at North Florida Community College, talks to the Rotary Club about the comparative religion course he teaches.

Within Christianity, there are Catholics and Protestants, for example, and among Protestants there are Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Lutherans, and so on. There are differences within the same denomination, and

sometimes, even within the same congregation.

When people can draw such distinctions between different sects of Christianity, then we can be assured that there are major differences in all the other major religions of the world; within each of those major religions, whether Hindu, Muslim, etc., are going to be different schools of thought. Within Hinduism, there are teachings from many different monks, each with their own followers. Among the followers of Islam there are Shiites, Sunnis, Kharjites and others, and each of these different sects have several divisions of their own.

"I always tell people what I tell my students at the end of all my lectures," said Paulk. "Just because you meet someone and you know what religion they are, you don't know everything about what they believe...the best thing you can do is to listen to them."

Another thing Christians should be aware of is negative stereotyping, an example of which would be assuming that the religion-based violence they sometimes see on television newscasts applies to all individuals of that faith. Paulk related how he had recently met a Middle-Eastern woman and her ...*Story cont. on Page 7B...*



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David Paulk

Story cont. from Page 6B

husband in a store and had a very pleasant conversation with them about their faith.

When Christians travel to other parts of the world, whether they are diplomats, ambassadors, business travelers or tourists, they should be aware of the different religious customs that might affect them. For example, if they are traveling in the Middle East, they should know that non-Muslims are not allowed to enter the holy city of Mecca, and there may be other areas where travel may be restricted to Muslims only, with dire consequences for trespassing. Some religious customs deem certain foods offensive. Others have protocols about the ways in which men and women can interact with each other in public places.

Religion has also noticeably affected our politics in recent election cycles, but some religious issues have figured into elections at least as far back as the Herbert Hoover-Al Smith presidential race of 1928; Smith's catholicism may have been a factor in his loss to Hoover. When John F. Kennedy ran for President in 1960, he had to assure the voting public that his religious beliefs would not interfere with his ability to serve as president. In the 2000 election, people noted the Jewish faith of Vice Presidential candidate Joe Lieberman. In 2008, Obama's past connections to a particular church brought him in for criticism.

Objectivity is another important issue. It can be very difficult for people, whether Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or other, to be objective about religious beliefs they were taught from infancy. Not only is it difficult to be totally objective about our own beliefs, it is difficult

for us to understand how someone else feels about about religious faith they have been taught since birth. These are beliefs that effect almost everything about them, from family ties to social interactions to their world view – that may even define who they are.

When he teaches his comparative religion classes, he tries to maintain a certain objectivity, but he also makes sure his students understand what he believes and how that belief system may effect his worldview.

"The patience and meekness required for understanding is often sorely lacking," he said. "We need the patience and meekness of the Lord Jesus Christ to sit down and talk to people and listen. To sit down and ask, 'what is this religion? What do they believe? Why do they wear that?'"

It is not a bad thing for Christians to read, study, hear and learn about other people's beliefs; it is a major step toward understanding them.

Religion is also a large part of the history, art, music, and culture of many places and so it may be difficult or impossible to expunge religious ideals from the public arena, yet because of the diversity of religious beliefs, it is difficult to impose one religious model on everyone. People from both sides of the argument believe that their way is the only way to guarantee freedom and there have been abuses at both extremes, with both atheist and religious dictators. People from both sides will often use examples of such abuses from the opposite end to support arguments for their case.

It is an example of when the meekness and patience are required for understanding between both sides, and why Paulk believes it is important that Christians be exposed to things they may not believe or may not agree with, to see how our beliefs compare with others and to draw them into a broader understanding of things.

To understand, people must first listen, said Paulk. Just...listen.



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Thanksgiving Dinner Set

By Jacob Bembry
Greene Publishing, Inc.

A community-wide Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22.

The event is planned at the Senior Citizens Center on Harvey Greene Drive on Nov. 22.

Plates will be made for the shut-ins at approximately 9:45 a.m.

The Senior Center will be open for walk-ins from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

"Last year was an awesome time serving our community," Timmy Dyke, planner of the Thanksgiving meal, said. "We hope to have even more volunteers and many more folks served."

If there are any questions, call Timmy Dyke at (850) 464-8107.

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Pinetta Baptist Food Pantry Celebrates First Year

By Jacob Bembry
Greene Publishing, Inc.

November 8 marked the first anniversary of the Pinetta Baptist Church food pantry.

Run by Pam Sexton and Edna McCormick, with help from Pam's husband, Billy Sexton, in a year, the pantry has gone from serving four or five families a month, to serving 30 families a month.

"It's been a wonderful, wonderful blessing," Pam said. "We get new people every time we're open."

The pantry is basically a self-serve pantry, where people can come in and choose any items they want.

"The only requirement is that they must have a Pinetta zip code," Pam said.

The food pantry is open the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Individuals seeking help must supply a photo ID and proof of address, such as an old utility bill, and must live in the 32350 zip code. Also, interested candidates must be 18 years of age or older.

For those wishing to donate items to the food pantry, items such as canned goods, tuna, elbow macaroni, Jello,



sugar, flour, pop tarts, cereal, juices, hamburger helper and more are gladly accepted as well as monetary gifts. Their mission is to do Christ's work by helping relieve hunger among the residents of Pinetta. And through the countless hours these hardworking volunteers have given of themselves, it makes their mission possible.



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Midway Church Of God Honors Veterans

By Jacob Bembry
Greene Publishing, Inc.

Midway Church of God honored its veterans during the Sunday morning service on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Special recognition is given to a member of the military each year. This year, Roy Phillips was honored with a certificate for his years of service from 1965-1972 as a member of the United States Army and Army Reserves.

Other veterans recognized included Pastor Retis Flowers, United States Marine Corps; Wayne Johnson, United States Marine Corps; Danny Blount, United States Navy; Turner Phillips, United States Army; and Bobby Bembry, United States Air Force and United States Army.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bembry, November 11, 2012

Veterans honored during the service at Midway Church of God were, from left to right: Bobby Bembry, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army; Turner Phillips, U.S. Army; Roy Phillips, U.S. Army; Danny Blount, U.S. Navy; Wayne Johnson, U.S. Marine Corps; and Pastor Retis Flowers, U.S. Marine Corps. More Photos on Page 11B

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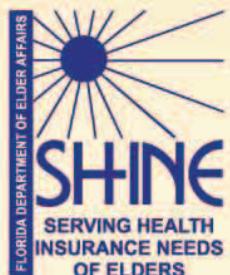
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Midway Honors Veterans

photos continued



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bembry, November 11, 2012

Roy Phillips is pictured with some of his family following the special morning worship service. Front row, left to right: Roy's wife, Bertha Jean Phillips; his grandson, Levi Phillips; and Roy Phillips. Back row, left to right: Roy's daughter-in-law, Amanda Phillips; his son, Chad Phillips; and his son, Cary Phillips.



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo by Jacob Bembry, November 11, 2012

Roy Phillips, left, received special recognition as a veteran during the Veterans Day morning worship service at Midway Church of God. Pastor Retis Flowers presents him with a certificate.

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